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Diplomatic Setbacks

Perhaps none will be more revealing in history about the U-2 incident and the confusion over the way it was handled by the President and his advisers. This marked the beginning of a number of diplomatic setbacks for the United States, the consequences of which are not yet known.

It is not a question of whether the flights were justified. Nor is it a matter of whether Mr. Khrushchev would have torpedoed the summit meeting on any other grounds. It is the fumbling way the whole matter was handled and apparent inattention to details which might have averted the crisis that has been of major consequence in this country.

Mr. Eisenhower, in effect, admitted to some shortcomings, according to Mr. Smith. "Eisenhower had become overconfident about the continuing success of the U-2 flights," he writes, "and it did not occur to him to stop them just before the Big Four meeting in Paris."

In this light, the contention of Vice President Nixon and other Republican spokesmen during the presidential campaign that the United States could not afford an intelligence gap by suspending the flights becomes a little hollow indeed.

In his last year in office Mr. Eisenhower traveled 100,000 miles in his quest for peace. In this book Mr. Smith, who went along on much of it, relates the story in human terms—how the President was protected, his hopes and disappointments. In every way it is a fascinating book.

—CECIL HOLLAND

MURRIAN SMITH

New Look
at 'U-2'THE PRESIDENT'S DAYS
BY MURRIAN SMITH
Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y.

On a summer day last June, President Eisenhower, talking about the U-2 spy plane incident, said he became "a bit scared" with the success of the flights. If he had it all to do over, said the President as represented by Smith, he would have ordered the flights and not let Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev use excuse for the U-2 flights.

The book, "The President's Days," by Murrian Smith, who has been a White House correspondent of United Press since 1945, is a collection of material who has written extensively about the President. This is only one of the absorbing parts of Mr. Smith's latest book, "The President's Days," which is a new and revealing insight into the President's life, not only on the U-2 flights but also on personal life, family, and friends.